(c) Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED) Phase 1 for Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) was sanctioned in 1993 only for Technology Development. Later in November, 2001, FSED Phase 2 was sanctioned for manufacturing of additional prototypes and eight Limited Series Production Aircrafts. Decision was taken to change to Open System Architecture (OSA) for Avionics and Change over to R73 E missile (from R60) to make the aircraft more advanced and contemporary. There are no other changes in the design. The project is progressing well and has completed more than 933 test flights successfully with seven aircrafts under flight test phase. Indian Air Force (IAF) has already placed a commercial order on HAL for procuring 20 LCA aircrafts.

(d) and (e) There is no such information available with the Government.

Visit of Defence Minister to USA

956. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he paid a visit to United States of America recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussion took place and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir. A delegation led by Raksha Mantri visited United State of America during 07-10 September 2008 in response to an invitation extended by Dr. Robert Gates, US Secretary of Defence during his visit to India in February 2008.

(b) During the meeting between Raksha Mantri and Secretary Gates, ongoing defence cooperation matters were discussed.

Diversion of suppliers meant for Indian armed forces

957. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in November, 2006 a racket of diversion/sale of Army Petrol-Diesel to private petrol pumps has been detected in Bikaner under Southern-Western command;

(b) whether racket is of 30 crore proportion;

(c) whether during the last ten years many rackets, pertaining to liquor, meat, pulses, clothes, ration, fake encounters in Army, Navy, Air Force have been unearthed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from concerned authorities in Army, Navy and Air Force.

Charges against Indian peace keepers in Congo

958. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: